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December 29, 2001

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney  
Anti-Trust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am very pleased to submit my letter of support for the settlement under consideration in the *U.S. v. Microsoft* anti-trust case. I have followed this issue through the news media, and I believe the settlement is fair and completely resolves the issues which were upheld by the courts.

Additionally, I am very, very pleased to see this case resolved after all of the time and financial resources which were invested thus far. It would be extremely unfortunate if this issue were to allow to linger and devour more time and money, not to mention the damage done to the Microsoft Corporation to continue defending itself and disrupting its services as the world's leader in the development and sales of affordable, easy-to-use software. The stock market reports show that while many sectors in economy have been sagging from the economic recession, Microsoft has shown remarkable resiliency.

As a businessman whose livelihood has depended on advances in information technologies, I've paid attention to how the dynamic advances created by Microsoft has not only vastly improved office system functions, but also how these advances have become more and more accessible and affordable to consumers. I think that consumers and our nation's economy have been the ultimate winners in Microsoft's quest to provide the best possible technological support to computer users.

The settlement which is being considered is a huge benefit for underprivileged children and school systems. But it is also the best solution for our nation's economy, consumers, and the entire information technology industry. I strongly recommend that this settlement is allowed to be enacted and that this controversy is finished once and for all. Thank you very much for your attention to my letter.

With best regards,

Rick Bauermeister

